**8th Grade Lesson - Marquis de Lafayette**

1. **TEKS addressed:** TEKS 113.20(b)(4)(B) explain the roles played by significant individuals during the American Revolution, including Abigail Adams, John Adams, Wentworth Cheswell, Samuel Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, James Armistead, Benjamin Franklin, Bernardo de Gálvez, Crispus Attucks, King George III, Haym Salomon, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, the Marquis de Lafayette, Thomas Paine, and George Washington  
     
     
   2. **Lesson** - based on Loerscher Model:  
     
   a. Background information given by teacher:  
   Many foreign-born individuals played important roles in the American Revolution. The Marquis de Lafayette was a wealthy French citizen who was so inspired by the American cause that he laid his life and personal fortune on the line to participate in the war.  
     
   b. Fact Gathering:  
     
   i. Historic Valley Forge  
   “Who Served Here? The Marquis de Lafayatte”  
   <http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/served/lafayette.html>  
     
   ii. Encyclopedia of World Biography   
   “Marquis de Lafayette Biography”  
   <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ki-Lo/Lafayette-Marquis-de.html>  
     
   iii. American Revolution: Marquis de Lafayette  
   <http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/americanrevolutio1/p/lafayette.htm>  
     
   iv. National Archives: Teacher Resources  
   <http://www.archives.gov/education/>  
   includes a Timeline of Lafayette’s actions during Revolutionary War and  
   Lafayette’s Oath of Allegiance (primary document)  
     
   v. EBSCO Student Research Center (online database)  
     
   Marquis de Lafayette. Monkeyshines on America, Nov2002 U.S. Events 1776-1812, p26, 1p; Abstract: Profiles Marquis de Lafayette who worked for liberty in both the U.S. and France. Lafayette's background; Role of Lafayette in American Revolutionary War; Efforts of Lafayette to end slavery. Reading Level (Lexile): 890; (AN 8655730)  
     
   vi. Book: Lafayette and the American Revolution by Russell Freedman,  
   Holiday House, c. 2010, ISBN: 978-0-8234-2182-4  
     
     
   3. **Concept Question:**   
   Lafayette gave up his personal fortune, he was an aristocrat and came to fight for the rights of non-aristocratic people. Why did he want to do this? What difference did Lafayette’s participation make in the course of the American Revolution?   
     
   4. **So What?**

How might things be different today if Lafayette had not volunteered to serve as an officer in the Continental Army?